

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 10 and 11 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 10 are amended. The amendments introduce no new matter as they are supported by the claims as originally filed. Claims 6-9 are canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited in the claims. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

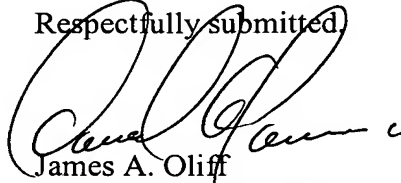
The Office Action, in paragraph 3, states that claims 1-5 are allowed. Applicant appreciates the allowance of these claims.

The Office Action, in paragraph 2, rejects claims 6-11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,671,993 to Shikama. The cancellation of claims 6-9 renders this rejection moot as to these claims. Additionally, Applicant notes that claims 10 and 11 depend from allowed claim 1. As such, claims 10 and 11 should be allowed at least for their dependence on allowed claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 10 and 11, in addition to allowed claims 1-5, are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: September 1, 2005

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